

**MINUTES OF  
SOUTHEAST LOUISIANA FLOOD PROTECTION AUTHORITY-EAST  
OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING  
HELD ON APRIL 4, 2013**

PRESENT: Louis Wittie, Chair  
Dave Barnes, Committee Member  
Timothy Doody, Committee Member  
Stephen Estopinal, Committee Member

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The Operations Committee of the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-East (SLFPA-E or Authority) met on April 4, 2013, in Meeting Room 221, Orleans Levee District Franklin Administrative Complex, 6920 Franklin Avenue, New Orleans, Louisiana. Mr. Wittie called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

**Opening Comments:** None.

**Adoption of Agenda:** The agenda was approved as presented.

**Approval of Minutes:** The minutes of the February 7, 2013 Operations Committee meeting were approved.

**Public Comments:**

Craig Berthold informed the Committee that residents along the 17<sup>th</sup> Street Canal have had to sue the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' (USACE) contractor doing the remediation work. He explained that the USACE's contractor is the joint venture of Bailey-CKY. CKY, a company located in California, has insurance; however, the joint venture of Bailey-CKY does not have insurance.

Mr. Lacour explained that the levee districts have been fighting the USACE on this issue for about twenty years. The USACE will not require its contractors to have insurance because its theory is that it increases the costs. The levee districts have tried in the past to get Congress to pass a bill that would require the USACE to have its contractors obtain insurance, name the levee districts as additional insureds, and have the levee districts pay the cost, but were unsuccessful. He added that the USACE's contractors usually have insurance, but do not name the levee district as an additional insured.

**New Business:**

**A. Discussion of structural change requested by Wildlife and Fisheries (WL&F) to the Bayou St. John Obsolete Flood Control Demolition Project and acceptance of a WL&F Foundation check in the amount of \$21,484.80 to reimburse for this request with the balance to be applied to the Bayou St. John Dredging Project.**

Gerry Gillen, Orleans Levee District (O.L.D.) Executive Director, explained that Wildlife and Fisheries (WL&F) requested a change to the Bayou St. John Obsolete Flood

Control Demolition Project. The WL&F Foundation has provided the O.L.D. with a check that will pay the cost of the change order to the Demolition Project and the remainder of the funding will applied to the Bayou St. John Dredging Project.

The Committee recommended that the requests to accept the WL&F Foundation check and to increase the construction budget for the Bayou St. John Obsolete Flood Control Demolition Project be forwarded to the Board for approval.

**B. Discussion of AECOM Operations and Maintenance Cost Study.**

Robert Turner, SLFPA-E Regional Director, recommended that the AECOM Operations and Maintenance Cost Study not be accepted as final at this time. SLFPA-E staff discovered some significant discrepancies and mathematical errors in the study. AECOM has been contacted about a meeting to attempt to resolve these issues.

**C. Discussion of New Orleans East Land Bridge Study.**

Committee members commented on the need to further discuss the New Orleans East Land Bridge Feasibility Level Study prepared by Ben C. Gerwick, Inc. It was pointed out that the SLFPA-E may not be in agreement with some of the suggestions and recommendations in the study.

Mr. Doody advised that a Study Group will be formed to further discuss the study and provide guidance prior to accepting a final report. The Study Group will meet after the next Board meeting.

**Levee District Reports:**

**Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System (HSDRRS) Status Report:**

Mr. Turner advised that Stevan Spencer, SLFPA-E Regional Chief Engineer, is attending a National Weather Service (NWS) regional meeting during which the NWS will unveil some new products for the forecasting of storm surge for the upcoming hurricane season. He reported that meetings have been held monthly for the past three months on the development of a plan for the location of hardened gages throughout Southeast Louisiana for use by emergency managers before, during and after a storm event. There was a consensus at the last meeting on the appropriate locations. The next step in the process will be to prioritize the locations since there is no funding for this effort at this time. There is some HSDRRS funding for gages on certain HSDRRS structures, which will be turned over to the local sponsors to operate and maintain. Once the locations are prioritized, funding will be sought for the construction of the gages. A decision will be needed as to which entities will operate and maintain the gages. Mr. Turner added that he discussed this issue with the Water Institute of the Gulf. Mr. Doody recommended that the discussions be expanded to include other coastal levee districts.

Mr. Turner reported on the following issues:

- IHNC Barge Gate - The USACE will be conducting a partial periodic inspection of the Barge Gate next week. The inspection will not include the electrical or mechanical portions of the gate due to the on-going structural repairs. Additional work will be required on the windlasses (winch devices) that are used to swing the barge into place and the landing beams. Therefore, he did not foresee the USACE turning over the Barge Gate to the local sponsor any time soon.
- Seabrook Complex - Orleans Levee District personnel are accompanying USACE personnel on Fridays when maintenance is done on the structure. The Notification of Contract Completion (NCC) is anticipated to be issued on the Seabrook Complex on April 30<sup>th</sup>. The SLFPA-E submitted punch list items at the pre-final and final inspections for the project. The SLFPA-E has not seen the final resolution of the punch list items and is attempting to obtain this information.
- West Return Floodwall-North – There are cracks in the base of the floodwall where water is coming from the protected side to the floodside. The seepage is primarily rainwater seeping through the cracks due to the buildup of the berm on the protected side several feet above the base slab. The USACE agreed that this is an outstanding issue even though the NCC was issued on the project. The USACE is considering making adjustments to seal some of the cracks.
- Southpoint to GIWW Levee – A section of the levee has subsided below the design grade. The USACE will construct another lift before turning the project over to the levee district. The work is schedule to be done before the end of June of 2013.
- The USACE made the decision to begin the periodic inspections on the Seabrook Complex, the IHNC Surge Barrier and the Bayou Dupre and Bayou Bienvenue Flood Control Structures even though there are outstanding issues.
- Additional remedial work will be needed along the West Side of the 17<sup>th</sup> Street Canal in the area south of Veterans Highway and in sections along the London Avenue Canal.

Mr. Doody advised that meetings are being held with a tugboat operator with boats situated in the IHNC concerning a contract for the operator to be on standby during hurricane season to maneuver vessels that break free in the Canal and to assist with the closure of the Barge Gate, if required.

**Lake Borgne Basin Levee District (LBBLD):** Nick Cali, LBBLD Executive Director, reviewed the highlights of the LBBLD status report. He advised that the LBBLD is working with the USACE on a plan to repair some of the sections of the slope paving along the Mississippi River Levee.

**Orleans Levee District (O.L.D.):** Gerry Gillen, O.L.D. Executive Director, reviewed the highlights of the O.L.D. status report. He reported that Sewerage and Water Board personnel repaired a 30-in. sewer line leak at the IHNC near Dwyer Road about 20-feet from the wall. The USACE was notified of this repair. He advised that staff has been

instructed to allow the grass to grow two feet back from the edge along the bank of the 17<sup>th</sup> Street Canal as a trail to determine whether this will alleviate the erosion problem.

**East Jefferson Levee District (EJLD)**: Fran Campbell, EJLD Executive Director, reviewed the highlights of the EJLD status report. She advised that the EJLD is working with Jefferson Parish due to access issues on the removal of a small tree that was cited in an inspection report.

There was no further business; therefore, the meeting was adjourned at 10:37 a.m.